AB 885 (DRAFT) REGULATION MATRIX

	CONVENTIONAL SYSTEMS			SUPPLEMENTAL TREATMENT SYSTEMS	
	INDIVIDUAL WELLS		COMMUNITY SUPPLY	INDIVIDUAL WELLS	COMMUNITY SUPPLY
MINIMUM LOT SIZE (ACRES)	**3**	**1 1/2**	**3/4**	**1 1/2**	**1/2**
MINIMUM SOIL DEPTH (below leach area) TO GROUNDWATER OR LIMITING LAYER (ft)	**3** Clayey **4** silty **5** Sandy	**3** Clayey **4** Silty **5** Sandy	**3** Clayey **4** Silty **5** Sandy	**2** Clayey & Silty **3** Sandy	**2** Clayey & Silty **3** Sandy
DOMESTIC WELL MONITORING	**NO**	**Once every 5 years (BACTERIA & NITROGEN)**	**N/A**	**NO**	**N/A**
GROUNDWATER LEVEL MONITORING	**NO**	**NO**	**NO**	**YES**	**YES**
BACTERIA/NITRATE DETECTION MONITORING	**NO**	**NO**	**NO**	**YES (BACTERIA)**	**YES (BACTERIA & NITROGEN)**

The following clarifies the information in the AB885 Regulation Matrix. The Regional Boards may allow exemptions if a system is permitted, monitored, and managed by a public entity or has waste discharge requirements.

1. Minimum Lot Size.

- The minimum lot size criteria apply only to the creation of new lots for single-family residences. Creation of smaller lots may be considered on an individual basis with Regional Board approval.
- All proposed on-site systems with a wastewater hydraulic or organic loading in excess of one single household equivalent per acre (or other agreed upon density) shall be analyzed for potential aquifer salt degradation. Pollutants considered in the analysis shall include TDS and nitrate at a minimum. The analysis shall demonstrate that concentrations of nitrate and TDS at the property boundary of the system will not exceed 5 mg/L nitrate (as N) and 450 mg/L TDS.
- Conventional systems consist of a septic tank and disposal field.
- Supplemental systems must be capable of producing an effluent with less than 1,000 MPN/100 mL total coliform. Both BOD and TSS effluent concentrations from such systems shall be less than 30 mg/L (monthly average). Supplemental systems installed for creation of new parcels shall be managed by a public entity, and the system shall be installed prior to map recordation, or financial assurance for system purchase and installation shall be provided.

2. Minimum Depth to Groundwater or Limiting Layer.

- The different soil types (sandy, silty, clayey) correspond to classes II, III, and IV soils, as noted on the soil classification diagram use by the North Coast Regional Board.
- At locations that are underlain by fractured or hard rock aquifers, 4 feet shall be the minimum depth to groundwater or limiting layer. In cases where the underlying fractured rock can accept applied wastewater, but the overlying soil is inadequate, the Regional Board may consider engineered fill systems. For engineered fill, wastewater must be pretreated with a supplemental system.
- Groundwater monitoring to determine separation to groundwater for conventional systems shall be based upon periodic measurements during the winter and spring at 100% or greater average annual precipitation, or mathematical modeling (based on actual measurements) at 100% average annual precipitation. GW level measurements for determination of separation to groundwater for supplemental systems shall be based upon actual measurements at 125% of average annual precipitation or greater or mathematical modeling (based upon actual measurements) extrapolated to 150% of average annual precipitation. The Regional Board or the Responsible Agency may require modification of the periods during which measurements are made. The Regional Board may allow exceptions to these requirements if the responsible agency demonstrates that depth to groundwater does not vary significantly throughout the year and is not appreciably affected by precipitation.
- The Regional Board may allow use of redoximorphic features to determine groundwater levels, if a study by the Responsible Agency establishes evidence such features provide appropriate indication of maximum groundwater level.
- Soils with percolation rates between 5 and 60 minutes per inch require no additional restrictions. Soils that percolate between 60 to 120 minutes per inch require pressure distribution. Soils that percolate between 5 minutes and 1 minute per inch may be allowed for conventional systems if the Regional Board is satisfied that the soil has sufficient filtering and treatment capacity. Use of soils with percolation rates faster than 1 minute per inch or slower than 120 minutes per inch is prohibited.
- The Regional Board may allow analysis of soil texture, structure, and consistence in place of percolation testing.
- Systems with less than three feet of soil beneath the disposal area shall be accompanied by an engineering analysis to demonstrate that effluent will not surface in or downgradient of the disposal field.

3. Groundwater Level Monitoring. Measured GW levels shall be reported twice per month from December thru April, or as the PA and Regional Board determine, using a piezometer or piezometers installed in or near the disposal field.

4. Bacteria/Nitrate Detection Monitoring. Detection monitoring shall be conducted quarterly using shallow wells installed near the disposal field. In certain cases, e.g. fractured rock aquifers, wells may not be required, due to the difficulty of intercepting groundwater and determining its flow direction and gradient. Similarly, the PA and the Regional Board may establish maximum depth of a boring if groundwater has not been encountered by that specified depth.